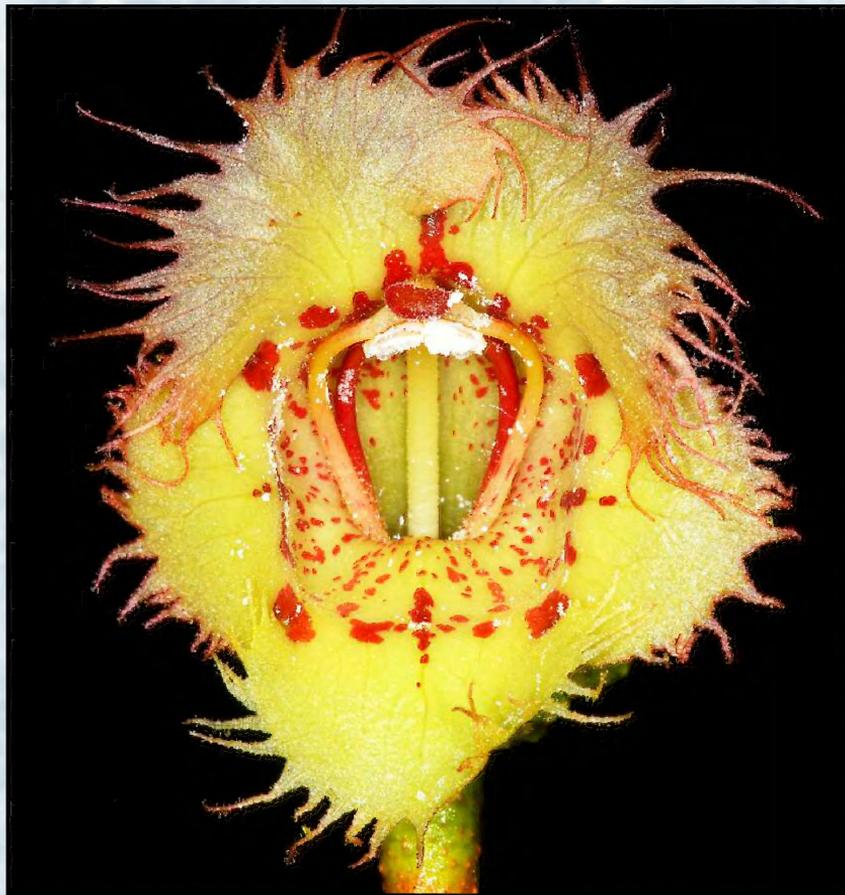


# GESNERIADS

*The Journal for Gesneriad Growers*

Vol. 59, No. 2

Second Quarter 2009



*Gesneria viridiflora*

# The Gesneriad Society, Inc.

*A non-profit membership corporation chartered by the State of Missouri*

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**Gesneriad Hybridizers Association** — *CrossWords*, 3 issues, \$8 (\$9 outside U.S.A.). Send to Martha Lacy, 260 Stoddards Wharf Rd., Gales Ferry, CT 06335 <wlacy@snet.net>.  
**Newsletter Editors** — *Newsviews*, free to editors; \$6 subscription to others. Contact Leslie Milde, 373 Main St., P.O. Box 14, Fremont, NH 03044 <meribush@aol.com>

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**British Streptocarpus Society** — <[www.streptocarpusociety.org.uk](http://www.streptocarpusociety.org.uk)> To join from the USA/Canada send \$12 check payable to Dale Martens, 1247 Island View Dr., Sherrard, Illinois 61281. To join from any other country, send £8 or 12€ to Peter Pinches, 72 Coopers Rd., Handsworth, Birmingham, England B20 2JX.  
**Marie Selby Botanical Gardens** — 811 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236 (914-366-5731) <[www.selby.org](http://www.selby.org)>  
Gardens open 364 days a year from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission free; members free. Outdoor gardens, tropical display house, tree lab, al fresco lunch cafe, plant, book and gift shops.

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*Second Quarter* ..... January 1  
*Third Quarter* ..... April 1  
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**OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY** — The objects of The Gesneriad Society are to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in gesneriads, to stimulate a widespread interest in, gather and publish reliable information about the identification, correct nomenclature, culture and propagation of gesneriads; and to encourage the origination and introduction of new cultivars.

**GESNERIAD REGISTRATION** — The Gesneriad Society, Inc. is the International Registration Authority for the names and cultivars of gesneriads excepting the genus *Saintpaulia*. Any person desiring to register a cultivar should contact Judy Becker, 432 Undermountain Road, Salisbury, CT 06068 <hybridregistrar@gesneriadsociety.org>.

visit

**[www.gesneriadsociety.org](http://www.gesneriadsociety.org)**

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## COVER

*Gesneria viridiflora*

flower face photographed *in situ* in Cuba  
by John L. Clark (story on page 13)

# President's Message

---

Peter Shalit <president@gesneriadsociety.org>  
Seattle, Washington, USA

Gesneriad growers, like all "plant people", know the enjoyment that comes from our hobby. Goodness knows life in the 21st Century can be stressful. Nothing equals the satisfaction that comes from growing a beautiful plant. A few hours of tending one's indoor or outdoor garden and the worries of daily life seem to fade away.

This is why humans have gardens, and this is why we create public parks, botanical gardens, arboreta, and conservatories. This is also why individuals like us have created amateur plant societies – to bring people together in the pleasure of growing plants.

This is also why I am sad that the Annual Show of my local Gesneriad Society chapter, held jointly with our local AVSA chapter, has been exiled from one of Seattle's premier botanical institutions, The Center for Urban Horticulture. From its name, one might infer that The Center for Urban Horticulture exists to encourage horticulture in our city, and that does seem to be one of its original purposes. For years, many local botanical and horticultural clubs have held their meetings and shows there. But the Center seems to have gotten into the wedding business, for financial reasons, and the plant clubs can't compete with that. One by one the club meetings and shows have had to find new homes.

I should have seen the writing on the wall a few years ago. Our Annual Show was still in high gear when caterers invaded the showroom and started setting up tables for a wedding reception that was to start the exact minute our show was scheduled to end. We rushed to dismantle the show while the public was still looking at our plants. The following year our rent for the showroom was raised significantly. We hesitated, but agreed to proceed because we felt a loyalty to the Center. This year, just a few months before our show, the management informed us that our rent would be doubled, to a figure that is higher than the entire treasury of most chapters. Of course we had to decline and find a new place for our Show.

Why is this an appropriate topic for the quarterly message of the President of The Gesneriad Society? Because several other chapters have had similar experiences and it's a sad trend. Botanical gardens are attracted by the money to be had by renting themselves out to events such as weddings. They are also more interested in creating "sexy" displays of plants such as orchids that will attract larger numbers of the public than a more humble and esoteric plant club, such as a Gesneriad Society chapter, might attract. These efforts tend to leave no room for meetings and shows of groups like ours.

In an ideal world, a botanical garden or arboretum should give its first priority to events that bring together people who grow and love plants. If someone wants to pay the facility a lot of money to hold a non-plant-related event there, that's fine, but horticultural events should come first. In the real world though, money trumps everything. That is how amateur plant groups get put out of the facilities that should be their home.

Few gesneriad shows or chapter meetings are held at botanical gardens anymore. Fortunately, we are able to find other venues. Chapters are meeting in libraries, churches, community centers, members' homes.

One of the best-attended annual shows is held by the Toronto Gesneriad Society at a shopping mall where thousands of people see the exhibits. This proves that we don't lose out when a gesneriad show is at a non-horticultural venue. The losers are the local botanical gardens. Gone are the exhibits by the most enthusiastic amateur plant-growers in their community. These public gardens are turning into museums instead of interactive centers where folks can learn how to make plants an integral part of their lives and experience the joy and serenity that comes from helping things grow.

You may be wondering what happened to our chapter show after we were exiled from the Center for Urban Horticulture. A local retail nursery has stepped up and donated a large public space for our joint Gesneriad Society/AVSA chapter show for a whole weekend – at no charge to us. Our exhibits will be seen by more of the public than ever before, and that is good. But there was something special about having our show at a public facility called "The Center for Urban Horticulture". It sent the message that we gesneriad freaks were Urban Horticulturists, growing beautiful and exotic plants in our homes, setting an example for others by bringing more "green" into the urban world. The Center is a beautiful setting for weddings. But it was also a beautiful setting for flower shows. It is too bad that the flower shows have been driven out. And this year's show promises to be beautiful. Now you'll have to excuse me as I need to spend some time grooming and reporting prospective show plants before bedtime.

*Peter*

**News from the Publications Committee**

You may have noticed some changes this year in our Society's journal GESNERIADS. There are more color photos throughout the publication, and the issues are being mailed in recyclable plastic wrappers. Allen Press, our new printer, enables us to make these improvements, and all at a lower cost than in the past. We are pleased with the results and hope you are, too.

**Color Photo Sponsorships**

Color photos on page 21 sponsored by Karyn Cichocki in lieu of speaker's honorarium and expenses for a Long Island Gesneriad Society program

Color photos on pages 34 and 42 sponsored by Karen Panek

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## **The Gesneriad Society**

53rd Annual Convention – 2009  
June 30 to July 4 – Silver Spring, Maryland

### **Call for 2009 Annual Membership Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the members of The Gesneriad Society will be held on Friday, July 3, at 12:00 p.m. for the purpose of transacting business that may properly come before the meeting.

### **Call for 2009 Board of Directors Meeting**

The Board of Directors meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 30, from 10:00 a.m. to noon and 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of transacting business that may properly come before the meeting. The Board will reconvene on Saturday, July 4, from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m.

*Allison Brigham, Recording Secretary*

## **Nominating Committee Report**

The following members have agreed to have their names put in nomination as directors for a three-year term ending in 2012:

Allison Brigham	Golden, Colorado
Doris Brownlie	Mississauga, Ontario, Canada
John R. Clark	Sarasota, Florida
Becky Fontes	Dunlap, Illinois
Mel Grice	Englewood, Ohio
Mollie Howell	Clearwater, Florida
Paul Lee	Fergus, Ontario, Canada

*Nominating Committee:*      *Fay Wagman, Chair*  
*Allison Brigham*  
*Arleen Dewell*

## **Letter to The Gesneriad Society**

---

"I am sorry that I am unable to renew my membership for various reasons. I am getting old, the interest is waning (but not gone) and the dollar is not so good. The recession is hitting hard. I have most of my copies going back to 1982. I have enjoyed receiving seed and even sending seed. I have run the Australian seed fund for the Australian clubs for quite a few years.

"I think it is time I tapered off. I can't do things as well as I once did. I still organise our Early Morn Group annual show. We have just had this, and it was very successful but took a lot out of me. We are building a large number of classes for the 'other gesneriads'. Our group has a once-a-month Saturday afternoon meeting just for 'the others'. Gesneriads have been my life for around 30 years, but I must be realistic.

"Thank you for the pleasure you have given me."

*Marge Huntley*  
*Mount Waverly, Victoria, Australia*

# Seed Fund

---

Gussie Farrice <hybrids@gesneriadsociety.org>  
Carolyn Ripps <species@gesneriadsociety.org>

It's that time of year again. The Christmas holidays are gone, 2009 has come, and it is the time for New Years resolutions. Alas, which ones shall we make and break and which ones shall we keep. One of my resolutions is to take better care of my plant collection. Between housework, a husband, a dog and the Seed Fund, the plants sometimes go to the bottom of the list.

I would also like to grow from seed this year. I am like the shoemaker's wife who needs new shoes. All these seeds and I don't plant any. I hope to try some soon. It is also my goal to have a plant to enter in the flower show at convention. Well, that is my list of hopefuls, along with losing a few pounds. Let's see which ones I can accomplish.

I hope to see many of you at convention – we will be there with our boxes of seeds to fill your hearts' desires.

We gratefully acknowledge recent contributions from the following: Marilyn Allen, Marlene Beam, Pam Braun, Helen Bortvedt, Irma Burnett, Tshuh Yang Chen, Bob Clark, Ruth Coulson, Miriam Denham, Ray Drew, Jacquie Eisenhut, Frank Kahn, Jill Hamill, Ginny Heater, Jen Howland, Kenji Hirose, Jon Lindstrom, Leong Tuck Lock, Ben Paternoster, Angelika Richter, Kay Rotando, Carolyn Ripps, Peter Shalit, Betsy Sherwin, Tatiana Shevtsova, Bev Williams, and Judy Zinni.

Send orders for hybrid seed from the following list to:

Gussie Farrice, 121 Nelson Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10308

## Please

## Seed Packets — \$2.00 each

- Make checks payable to the The Gesneriad Society in U.S. funds
- To pay by credit card, send your credit card number, expiration date, and signature, and indicate if the card is Mastercard or Visa (\$6.00 minimum)
- Provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope (non-U.S. orders will have the postage added to their credit card bill)
- List alternate choices
- Include your membership number (first number on your mailing label)

## Note

- There is a limit of one seed packet of a single variety per order
- There is a limit of 25 seed packets per order
- There is a household limit of 50 seed packets per calendar year

## Seed Fund – Hybrids

### *Achimenes* (D)

- hybrid mix (B,L)
- *longiflora* × 'Klaus Neubner'

### *Aeschynanthus* (B)

- hybrid, lg orange/red

### *Chirita*

- *caliginosa* × *sericea* (LM)
- 'Dreamtime' × self (sp. 'New York'
- × *flavimaculata*)

- *linearifolia* × *longgangensis*

- 'Moon Walker' × self

### *Chrysothemis* (F,LM)

- *pulchella* hybrid mix
- hybrid mix

### *Columnnea* (B)

- 'Aladdin's Lamp' × self
- 'Bold Adventure' × self
- hybrids (orange)

**Episcia** (H,L,B,F)

- *cupreata* hybrids × 'Suomi'
- cupreata* hybrids mix
- hybrid mix
- mixed hybrids (5 crosses)

**Eucodonia** (D,F,P)

hybrid mix

**Gesneria** (H,F,L)

'Flashdance'

- 'Sundrop'

**Kohleria** (D)

*hondensis* hybrid × 'Bermuda Red'

- hybrid mix

**Seemannia**

- (*sylvatica* × *purpurascens*  
GRF 9670) × self
- 'Medusa' × self

**Sinningia** (D)

- canescens* × *leucotricha* 'Max Dekking'
- cardinalis* × *glaziioviana*
- cardinalis* 'Innocent' × *iarae* (LM)
- (*cardinalis* 'Innocent' × *iarae*) × self
- (*cardinalis* × *iarae*) × self
- cardinalis* × double orange hybrid
- (*cardinalis* 'Skydiver' × *iarae*) × self
- eumorpha* hybrids mix (F,R)
- glaziioviana* × *leopoldii* F2 (LM)
- guttata* × *speciosa* 'Cabo Frio' (*iarae* × *cardinalis* compact) × self
- leopoldii* × *iarae*
- (*leucotricha* × *cardinalis*) × self
- (*sellovii* × 'Apricot Bouquet') × self
- (sp. "Florianopolis" × *leopoldii*) × self
- *warmingii* × *curtiflora* F2
- 'Anne Crowley' (F,L)
- 'Apricot Bouquet' seedling ×  
'Apricot Bouquet' (LM)
- 'Apricot Bouquet' × self (LM)
- ('Apricot Bouquet' × self) × self (LM)
- ('Apricot Bouquet' × self) ×  
*conspicua* (F,L)
- ('Apricot Bouquet' × self) ×  
(*conspicua* × *eumorpha*) (F,L)
- 'Beata' (*leucotricha* × *leopoldii*)
- 'Beata' × self (*leucotricha* ×  
*leopoldii*)
- 'Bewitched' × self (F,L)
- ('Cheryl's Cherry Chips' × 'Buffy')  
× self
- 'Claire's Choice' × self
- 'Delta Fox' × self (F,P)
- 'Desafinado' × self
- 'Diego' (red) (F,L)
- 'Diego' (pink)
- 'Dollbaby' (F,P)

- 'Dollbaby' × self
- ('Dollbaby' × 'Mercury') × self
- 'Doris' F3 × self
- 'Elin' × *leucotricha*
- 'Good Pink' × self (F,L)
- 'IO' × self
- 'Jubilee' × self (F,L)
- 'Krezdorn Yellow' × self (L)
- 'Krishna' × self
- 'Lavender Crest' × self
- 'Little Imp' × self (F,P)
- 'Maiden's Blush' × self (F,P)
- 'Mark Twain' × self
- 'Mother of Pearl' × self (F,P)
- 'Mothers Day' × self (F,L)
- 'Ozark Pink Petunia' × self
- 'Pale Beauty' × self (L)
- 'Pink Pearl' × self
- 'Premier Pink' × self (F,P)
- 'Pure Pink' × self (F,P)
- 'Purple Crest' × self
- 'Ruby Red' × self (F,P)
- 'Scarlet Sunset' × self (F,P)
- 'Super Orange' × self
- 'Tampa Bay Beauty' × self (L)
- 'Ted Bona' × self (F,P)
- 'Xanadu' × self F2
- 'Georgia Sunset' hybrid mix
- "Hummingbird Mix"
- hybrid (peach) × self
- miniature hybrid mix (F,P)
- miniature hybrid mix (lav/purple (F,P)
- pink hybrid mix
- peloric hybrid mix
- peloric hybrid mix, red
- Super Mini F5

**Sinningia speciosa** hybrids (F,R)

- blue mix
- blue × self
- mini
- lavender
- pink
- purple
- red
- rose
- white
- orchid/purple mix
- pink & rose pink
- pink mix
- pink/white mix
- pink dwarf
- purple peloric
- purple w/spots
- purple × pink
- red mix
- red w/spots

- red w/white edge
- white w/red spots
- white/lavender
- "California Minis"
- Chiltern hybrid
- blue slipper
- blue slipper × self
- lavender & pink slipper × self
- lavender slipper
- pink slipper
- red slipper
- mixed slipper
- AC1503 × *speciosa* 'Regina'
- Small's dwarf mix
- Charles Lawn hybrid mix
- Early Giant mix
- Jack Evans purple mix
- Jack Evans red mix
- mixed hybrids
- Smithiantha** (D)
- 'Little One' (F,L)
- hybrid mix (F,L,M)
- Streptocarpus**
- ('Amethyst' × self) × self
- 'Amy' × self
- 'Bethan' × self
- 'Black Panther' × self
- 'Bristol's Charm' × self
- 'Bristol's Daisy Jane' × self
- 'Bristol's Gum Drop' × self
- 'Bristol's Hey Mei' × self
- 'Bristol's Hot Rod' × self
- 'Bristol's Ice Castle' × self
- 'Bristol's Lipstick' × self
- 'Bristol's Luv It' × self
- 'Bristol's Popsicle' × self
- 'Bristol's Ripe Melon' × self
- 'Canterbury Surprise' × self (V)
- ('Canterbury Surprise' × 'Bristol's Leopard Skin') × self
- 'Canterbury Surprise' × 'Charlotte'
- 'Canterbury Surprise' × 'Coral Flair' (V)
- 'Canterbury Surprise' × 'Emily's Song'
- 'Canterbury Surprise' × 'Ice Berg Blues'
- 'Cape Beauties' × self (F,P)
- ('Cape Essence' × 'Iced Pink Flamingo') × un-named hybrid
- 'Charlotte' × self
- 'Charlotte' × 'Northwoods Bear-ly Salmon'
- 'Crystal Wonder' × self
- 'Demeter' × self
- 'Electric Blue' × self
- 'Elegance' × self
- 'Ella Mae' × self
- 'Ella Mae' × "Blue Variety"
- 'Falling Stars' × self
- 'Fancy Pants' × self
- 'Fernwood's Bam Bam' × *modestus*
- 'Fernwood's Cherries Jubilee' × self
- 'Fernwood's Fairy Princess' × self
- 'Festival Wales' × self
- 'Fleischle Princesse' × self
- 'Franken Dainty Lady' × self
- 'Franken Jane Elizabeth' × self
- 'Franken Stacey' × self
- 'Good Vibrations' × (*primulifolius* × *rexii* selfed)
- 'Hera' × self
- 'Ice Berg Blues' × 'Guidelines'
- 'Ice Berg Blues' × 'Crystal Beauty'
- 'Ice Berg Blues' × ('Canterbury Surprise' × 'Bristol's Leopard Skin')
- 'Ice Berg Blues' × 'Paper Moon'
- 'Iced Amethyst Showoff' × 'Bristol's Bluebird'
- 'Iced Amethyst Showoff' × 'Susan'
- ('Iced T' × 'Twilight') × ('Canterbury Surprise' × 'Happy Snowflake') × self
- 'Jane Elizabeth' × "Blue Variety"
- 'Jenny' × self
- 'Karen' × self
- 'Ken's Purple' × self
- 'Keri's Purple' × self
- 'Kim' × self
- 'Kitten Face' × self
- 'Midnight Flame' × self
- 'Mini Pink Fu' × self
- 'Northwoods Bear-ly Salmon' × self
- 'Northwood's Bear-ly Salmon' × 'Iced Amethyst Showoff'
- 'Northwoods Bear-ly Salmon' × 'Velma'
- (pale lilac netted) × self
- 'Park's Holiday Hybrid' × self
- 'Party Doll' × self
- 'Passion Pink' × self
- 'Pegasus' × self
- 'Persephone' × self
- 'Pink Ice' × self
- 'Popsicle' × self
- 'Royal' (red)
- 'Royal' (white/pink stripes)
- 'Sandra' × self
- 'Scarlet Glitter' × unknown
- 'Somerset Purple Ice' × self
- 'Spooky' × self
- 'Stacey' × "Blue Variety"
- 'Sue mini' × self
- 'Susan' × self
- 'Thalia' × self

- 'The King' × self
- 'Ulysses' × self
- 'Winterwood' × 'Iced Pink Flamingo'  
(*confusus* ssp *confusus*) ×  
(*polyanthus* ssp *verecundus*) × self
- *johannis* × unknown
- (*montigena* × *rexii*) × self
- *montigena* × *rexii* (natural hybrid)  
(*primulifolius* × *rexii*) × self  
(*primulifolius* × *rexii* selfed) × ('Cape  
Essence' × 'Iced Pink Flamingo')
- *rexii* × *gardenii*  
*rexii* hybrids
- Wiesmoor hybrids  
hybrid, lt blue/dk blue lines
- hybrid, lg purple  
hybrid, lg white  
hybrid, lg mixed colors

- hybrid, pink/pink
- hybrid, red
- hybrid, red × self
- hybrid, white/pink × self
- hybrid mix
- New Zealand hybrid mix
- Subgenus *Streptocarpella***  
hybrids  
'White Butterfly' × self
- Intergenerics**  
*Paliavana prasinata* × *Sinningia*  
*macropoda* MP 944  
*Paliavana prasinata* × *Sinningia*  
*reitzii* MP 949  
× *Gloxinimannia* 'Circe' × self
- Mixed gesneriads**
- denotes LIMITED quantities

### Seed Fund Key

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| (A) Alpine or cool greenhouse                         | (LM) Low to medium height              |
| (B) Suitable for hanging basket                       | (M) Medium height; 1 to 2 feet         |
| (D) Has dormant period, forming<br>tubers or rhizomes | (MT) Medium to tall                    |
| (F) Blooms readily in fluorescent light               | (P) Petite or miniature; under 6"      |
| (G) Recommended for greenhouses;<br>requires space    | (R) Rosette in form                    |
| (H) Requires humidity and warmth                      | (S) Requires sun to bloom              |
| (L) Low growing; not more than 12"                    | (T) Tall plants; generally over 3 feet |
|   | (U) Unifoliate or single leaf          |
|   | (V) Leaves may be variegated           |

### Convention Dates to Remember

**Register Early!** Remember that early admission to plant sales will be in registration number order.

- June 1 Convention registration deadline. After this date, registration for activities will be on a space-available basis and subject to a \$45 late fee.
- June 8 Hotel registration deadline to guarantee convention room rate.
- June 20 Flower Show awards donation deadline.
- June 22 Judging School registration deadline. Be reminded that no registrations will be accepted at convention.  
Deadline for artistic entry niche reservations, and for commercial and educational exhibit reservations.

**To register online, go to  
[www.gesneriadsociety.org/conv2009/](http://www.gesneriadsociety.org/conv2009/)**

# Gems of Wisdom at Convention 2009

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Ron Myhr, Convention Speakers Chair  
<writeme@gesneriads.ca> Ashburn, Ontario, Canada

Every convention has a series of highlights. We always look forward to the flower show where we can see the results of a year of effort by our best growers; the auctions where we can often pick up the new and the rare (and the weird) at sometimes awesome prices; the excursions that give us the opportunity to see new and interesting places; and perhaps most of all the camaraderie with fascinating like-minded people.

Anchoring it all are the speakers who always provide us with interesting and informative programs. We've heard many great presentations over the years – reports on newly discovered species, cultural information from expert growers, the newest on fascinating hybridizing programs, the latest on botanical research, and much more – often involving wonderful photographs.

This year will be no different. We've a fascinating and nicely balanced series of presentations arranged, with topics ranging from botanical research through reports on popular genera to hybridizing. There's going to be something (actually several things) for everyone.

The first of the Friday programs is a close focus on the popular and fascinating genus *Chirita*. Peter Shalit of Seattle, Washington, will touch on several aspects of this huge (and hugely interesting) group. He will provide an overview of the genus and discuss some taxonomic issues, including whether it makes sense to keep the group as a single genus. Peter will then focus on some of the really interesting work that he and others are doing to create new and spectacular hybrids and will also touch on some issues of culture. There will be many pictures. Peter is uniquely qualified to conduct this program – he has been growing and studying gesneriads for more than thirty years and has produced real innovations in hybridizing *Sinningias* as well as *Chiritas* – all while contributing substantially to The Gesneriad Society through a variety of posts, currently as President.

Peter will be followed by Silvana Martén-Rodríguez, a botanist who has recently completed her doctoral dissertation on pollination and breeding systems in the Antillean tribe of Gesneriaceae which is distributed throughout the Caribbean basin. This research was supported in part by The Gesneriad Society through a substantial grant helping her conduct research in Jamaica. Silvana will be talking about the ecology and evolution of pollination systems in the Caribbean gesneriads, and her presentation will feature a variety of images and video of pollinators like hummingbirds and bats visiting plants. Silvana has recently taken up a post-doctoral fellowship at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and has a continuing interest in the Gesneriaceae.

First thing Saturday morning, Tim Tuttle of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, will be up to bat with a program focusing on the genus *Petrocosmea*. He will discuss each of the familiar (and not so familiar) species currently in cultivation and attempt to clear up some of the confusion in the names being used for the different species. Tim has been doing some very interesting hybridization in *Petrocosmea* and will discuss that work and his current results, as well as some of the investigation he has been doing on the influence of various cultural factors in successful cultivation of the various species.

The programs will be brought to a close in spectacular fashion on Saturday morning. Mauro Peixoto (Mogi das Cruzes, São Paulo state, Brazil) has been a significant presence in the gesneriad world for some time; and through his "BrazilPlants" initiative, he has been instrumental in introducing many species (gesneriads as well as others) into cultivation. He will be talking about the genus *Sinningia* and providing an overview of the whole genus with particular attention to some fascinating recent introductions. He will also be discussing some recently published clarifications of *Sinningia* taxonomy and relationships. Again, there will be many pictures.

Overall, I think it is safe to say that this year's convention is going to have one of the strongest panels of speakers ever. It is going to be great fun, as well as hugely educational.

### **Gesneriads Hybridizers Association**

The annual GHA meeting will take place on Wednesday evening at 8:30 p.m. The program topic will be "Creating Smaller Streps". Narrated by Dale Martens, the program will feature a variety of hybridizers' efforts to reduce the leaf size of *Streptocarpus* hybrids through careful breeding selection and/or the use of smaller species as parents. All are invited to attend this program.

## **Convention Auction**

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For the silent auction in Silver Spring we are asking for your donations of gesneriad or horticulturally related items. We like to highlight plant material at the live auction – show plants, new hybrids, unusual plants, and so forth. All auction proceeds benefit the Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund. If you cannot attend convention, you may mail your item to Nell Hennessy, Fiduciary Counselors Inc., 700 12th St. NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005.

At the Silver Spring Convention this year we will be holding the live auction at Saturday's luncheon and, as we did in 2008, we will again auction fifteen minutes in the Sales Room with Jon Dixon at the 2010 Convention in Vancouver, BC, Canada. The silent auction will run its usual course, from Friday morning to just before the Saturday luncheon. All items won, from either the silent or the live auction, can be picked up after the luncheon. This year we have set aside a period of time in the Show Room for winners to pick up plants that have been donated by show exhibitors.

Remember to bring your auction donation form with you to convention with your auction donations! It will be included in your registration packet.

Questions about the auction can be addressed to Suzie Larouche, <development@gesneriadsociety.org> 50 John Street, Suite 710, Toronto, Ontario M5V 3T5, Canada.

### **In Memoriam**

Emily Jones  
Irene Fey

New York, New York  
Napa, California

# Searching for Rare Gesneriads in Cuba

---

John L. Clark <jlc@ua.edu>  
University of Alabama, Department of Biological Sciences  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama, USA

Cuba, the largest island in the Caribbean, harbors some of the world's most unique plant diversity. Studying Cuba's diversity has been an unattainable dream for most US biologists despite its close proximity to the United States being a mere 50 miles off the coast of Florida. In the face of adversarial diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba during the last fifty years, I was fortunate to work with gracious and kind hosts who facilitated two recent research expeditions.



John L. Clark (holding *Rhytidophyllum* species) with Cuban hosts (left to right): Iralys Ventosa from the Instituto de Ecolgía y Sistemática, Alberto I. Torres Bilbao and Jesús Matos from the Empresa Nacional para la Protección de la Flora y Fauna

The University of Alabama established an academic exchange program with the University of Havana which has made it possible for me to travel and work there. My most recent collecting expedition in December of 2008 coincided with a friendly baseball competition between the Cuban Instituto Superior de Cultura Física and the Crimson Tide (University of Alabama). The two teams played in the Estadio Latinoamericano, the same stadium that hosted the Brooklyn Dodgers with a safe place where they could bring Jackie Robinson to spring training in 1947 — thus helping to break the "color line" in major league baseball. The stadium has a long history of hosting some of the best baseball players, yet listening to the American and Cuban National anthems played side by side has been rare during the last few decades and it happened during the recent friendly competition. I believe that a common thread between biology and baseball is that people with a shared passion can overcome political barriers that have been created by governments. I have been to the island five times since 2006 and I plan to return on a regular basis for study of Gesneriaceae for the Flora of Cuba. This article will outline some of the rare gesneriads that my Cuban collaborators and I have documented. One goal of our current research in Cuba will be a collaborative checklist that will be co-authored with Laurence Skog and Jesus Matos (Empresa Nacional para la Protección de la Flora y Fauna).

One major difference between biodiversity research in Cuba relative to South and Central America is that there is less likelihood of discovering new species in Cuba. The island's plant life was extensively collected before the Cuban revolution for the "Flora of Cuba" which included a treatment of the Gesneriaceae of Cuba (Morton 1957b). The exciting aspect of conducting research in Cuba is that most of the gesneriad diversity is highly endemic, rarely photographed, and little post-revolution information exists about many of Cuba's rarest species. Even with ongoing studies by Cuban botanists, there are over a dozen Gesneriaceae species that have not been collected during the last century, and there are 20-30 species that have not been collected since the 1950s. The Gesneriad Society provided funds through its Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund to support a three-week collecting expedition to the eastern region of the island to gather information for a collaborative project for an updated treatment of the Gesneriaceae for the "Flora of Cuba". A podcast of this expedition includes 400+ images and can be downloaded from my website at <[www.bama.ua.edu/~jclark4/links](http://www.bama.ua.edu/~jclark4/links)>.

The need to work on Cuban gesneriads was well summarized by Morton after his ten-week expedition to Cuba in 1956 by the following statement (Morton 1957a):

"Although most of the Cuban species have been described, many of them are insufficiently known. In fact, several of the species are still known only from the original collections, some of them made by Charles Wright about a century ago. Some of these may be extinct ...."

Few botanists have visited Cuba to collect gesneriads since the 1950s. Alain Chautems (from the Conservatory and Botanical Garden in Geneva, Switzerland) and Pedro Acevedo (Smithsonian Institution) visited Topes de Collantes in the province of Sancti Spiritus in separate expeditions in the early 1990s. Others have visited the island as tourists and documented some of the more common species with photographs. Nonetheless, the above statement by Morton from 1957 is still true today because of extremely limited access to many important type localities for rare and endemic species on the island.

The ability to work on Cuban plant diversity was greatly enhanced by Laurence Skog, curator emeritus of the Gesneriaceae collection, from the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. Dr. Skog's doctoral dissertation (1976) focused on the genus *Gesneria*, a primarily Caribbean group with its probable center of diversity in Cuba. Skog's thesis provided a foundation for developing species concepts in *Gesneria*. An earlier curator from the Smithsonian, Conrad Morton mentioned above, also worked on Cuban Gesneriaceae. I wrote my dissertation next door to Dr. Skog at a desk that was previously in Conrad Morton's office. I never dreamed that working in Cuba would be an option until I took a job at the University of Alabama where I have been able to use information accumulated by two generations of Gesneriaceae researchers from the Smithsonian.

Some of the species' names presented here differ from those in Skog's treatment of *Gesneria* (1976) and Morton's treatment for the Flora of Cuba (1957b). These same names may change in the future because we have not fully developed species concepts and we are still trying to visit additional type localities. It should be noted that Skog published his dissertation in the early 1970s when relations between Cuba and the US were much worse than they are today. Visiting the island was virtually impossible in the early 1970s. My recent fieldwork allowed me to photograph, study, and collect specimens, luxuries that were not available to Skog when he was writing his dissertation.

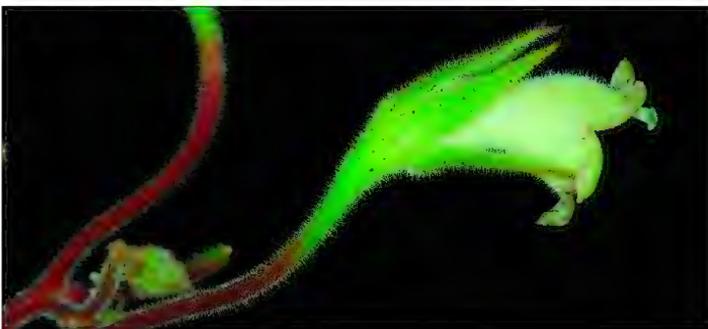
## *Rhytidophyllum rhodocalyx* Urban

Erik Ekman, a naturalist and explorer from Sweden, collected throughout the New World Tropics and conducted collecting expeditions in Cuba between 1914 and 1924. One of the most important expeditions that Ekman made was in 1922 when he summited Pico Turquino, the tallest mountain in Cuba. He was accompanied by many well-known botanists including the French priest Brother León who was a resident in Cuba for most of his life. The following anecdote of the expedition is here translated from pp. 317-318 of Álvarez Conde's 1958 "Historia de la Botánica en Cuba":

"Traveling up the Río Yara carrying heavy loads of water and walking a fast pace, there was a moment in which Brother León was exhausted and asked to rest. Ekman who was a very impulsive man returned and grabbed the load from Brother León and said, "Child, you shouldn't be doing a man's job if you are not properly conditioned." This was the tactic that Ekman used for his self-esteem and to fulfill his obligations. Shortly before, he was belittling the abilities of North Americans and embellishing the strength of his own countrymen. Bruner was quiet and put up with the mistreatment of Brother León and promised that he would walk until he dropped dead before allowing Ekman to come out ahead. A few moments later, Charles Ballou, another North American said to Bruner, "I can't go on." Bruner saw that the same scene would happen again, even worse. Bruner silently took the load from Charles Ballou and continued marching on. Later, Ekman climbed a tree and dropped a branch with a flower that was lost when it fell to the ground. At this moment Ekman went on a tirade against Brother León, who as a religious man put up with it in silence, but Bruner answered to Ekman sternly that he should never speak to him again in his life."

Ekman made the last and previously only collection of *Rhytidophyllum rhodocalyx* on the southern spur of Pico Turquino. The peak south of Turquino is called "Loma Regino" and was named after the local Cuban guide that cut the trail that allowed the expedition to climb Pico Turquino.

Our August 2008 expedition to Pico Turquino resulted in the rediscovery of this spectacular species and the second only collection ever made. Calyx lobes of most *Rhytidophyllum* species are triangular and short. The long-attenuate calyx lobes make this taxon one of the most distinctive *Rhytidophyllum* species on the island, which is probably why Urban described it without mature flowers. Thus, the photo shown here not only represents the second collection, but also the first time that this species has been collected in flower.



*Rhytidophyllum rhodocalyx*

*Gesneria viridiflora* showing variability in growth habit and flower color



***Gesneria viridiflora* (Decaisne) O. Kuntze**

This species is one of the most common and morphologically most variable gesneriads in Cuba. The leaves range from oblong to ovate to obovate. This variation was observed in populations with nearly identical flowers on plants growing in close proximity. The variation in flower color ranges from uniformly yellow, to uniformly maroon, to yellow with maroon margins, to yellow with maroon spots.

The information from the type collection by Linden cites the locality as "Sierra Maestra – St. Yago de Cuba." It is assumed that Linden was referring to the mountains of Sierra Maestra of Santiago de Cuba where this is one of the most commonly collected shrubs.

Two species that Skog (1976) treated as *Gesneria viridiflora* and *Gesneria duchartreoides* were treated as five species by Morton (1957b). Presented here are images that represent these two species complexes. We hope to sort out these species and determine the correct names through ongoing expeditions to type localities in Cuba and neighboring islands.

***Gesneria bracteosa*** Urban – synonym of *G. duchartreoides* (C. Wright) Urban by Skog (1976).

This species has extremely long peduncles and deeply serrate leaf margins. The calyx lobes and bracts are remarkably longer compared to *Gesneria nipensis* N. Britton & P. Wilson.

***Gesneria nipensis*** N. Britton & P. Wilson – synonym of *Gesneria duchartreoides* by Skog (1976).



*Gesneria bracteosa*



*Gesneria nipensis*



***Gesneria purpurascens*** Urban

The basal rosette of bullate leaves with reticulate venation would make this a desirable plant to have in cultivation. It grows on limestone vertical rock faces along the base of a mountain known as "Yunque de Baracoa". At higher elevations on the same mountain is *Gesneria reticulata*, which we also found with fruits but no flowers (not shown here).

*Gesneria purpurascens*



***Gesneria yamuriensis*** Britton & Wilson – synonym of *Gesneria purpurascens* by Skog (1976).

The photo presented here is from the type locality. Note that the calyx lobes lack trichomes compared to *Gesneria purpurascens*. This species also differs in that the leaves are not bullate as in *G. purpurascens*.



*Gesneria yamuriensis*



***Gesneria clarensis*** N. Britton & P. Wilson

This rare tree is endemic to the Trinidad mountain range of central Cuba in Banao. There were previously only six collections known of this species, and the last time it had been documented was 1923 by Ekman. Of the known collections, only a single specimen at the New York Botanical Garden showed a flower. The color of the flower was not even known because of the limited material (Skog 1976). Presented here are images of the bright orange tubular flowers with contrasting green lobes.



*Gesneria clarensis*

### *Phinaea pulchella* Bentham

This rare species has only been collected about a dozen times, and the last specimen made was by Brother Alain Liogier in 1955. Brother Alain Liogier assisted Conrad Morton from the Smithsonian Institution during his ten-week expedition to Cuba in 1956 (Morton 1957a). This small plant grows in wet areas on mostly dry limestone outcrops in the province of Pinar del Río in western Cuba. Some of the limestone in the Viñales region of Pinar del Río has small seeps where lichens, moss, and other small clumps of vegetation grow. It is on these moist areas where you can find individuals of this poorly known species.



*Phinaea pulchella*

#### **Literature cited:**

Álvarez Conde, J. 1958. *Historia de la Botánica en Cuba*, Publicaciones de la Junta Nacional de Arqueología y Etnología. Habana: Talleres Tipográficos de Editorial Lex.

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Photos taken in Cuba by John L. Clark

# *Sinningia richii* is Brazilian not Mexican

---

Mauro Peixoto <brazilplants@gmail.com>  
Mogi das Cruzes, São Paulo, Brazil

A wonderful side-effect of having a website about plants is the number of new friends that I made since I started it <www.brazilplants.com>. This article could only be written because of one of them.

His name is Robson Lopes and he lives in Jaguaré, a small town in the north of Espírito Santo state about 700 km north of Rio de Janeiro. Although his primary interest is the bromeliad family, he sent me an email on April 14, 2008 with some pictures of a white *Sinningia* that he had just found growing at the edge of a remnant patch of forest along a dirt road leading to the local landfill within the urban area of his hometown. Examining the few pictures, I was amazed by the plant's similarity to *Sinningia richii* and quickly questioned him about the possibility of it being a plant that could have escaped from cultivation. As he assured me that it was a wild plant, I became even more excited because *S. richii* had been described as a plant from Mexico.

I forwarded the message and the pictures to Dr. Alain Chautems who started to look into the background of *Sinningia richii* and discovered some interesting facts: The original description published by Clayberg in 1968 was based on cultivated material collected in Mexico in the state of Veracruz, not far from the volcano Orizaba. Since then, no other collections were recorded from that area. Local herbaria, as well as the national main herbarium in Mexico City, were contacted to check if they had any specimens of *S. richii* in their holdings. (Emails were sent including pictures and original description reference.) The curator of the Xalapa herbarium answered that the only *Sinningia* present in their collection was a cultivated *S. speciosa*. A picture of this material was included so that any similarity with *S. richii* could be excluded. He also commented on the original locality given by Clayberg (citing the label information): it appears that limestone outcrops do occur ten miles SE of Cordoba, but the volcano is located at the NW side of Cordoba so that the indicated locality seems incongruent. In any case, *S. richii* was never found again in the wild and has been grown by gesneriad enthusiasts through the unique introduction of the original material.

All the available records of herbarium material of any *Sinningia* collected in northern Espírito Santo were checked, and it was found that some plants with white flowers had been previously collected there. They were at first identified as *S. speciosa* in the Brazilian herbaria that Alain investigated. Fortunately, slides of these collections had been kept and checking them again proved that they were very similar to Robson's pictures. An intense exchange of emails started between Alain and Robson, and soon Robson emailed that he had discovered new populations with nice yellow flowers. Things were turning more and more interesting. With all the questions that were addressed to Robson about tuber morphology, leaf texture, indumentum, corolla size, nectary, etc., it became evident that the plant was in no way related to *S. speciosa*, but had several features of *S. richii*.

It was a good start, but at that point we only had pictures, not pressed or live material to make physical comparisons. For that reason, Alain came to Brazil in July 2008 and we traveled some 1200 km north of São Paulo to visit Robson to try to find the plant in its habitat. Although we were in the



*Sinningia richii* in three color variants



Yellow and white flower forms – photos on pp. 21-22 by Robson Lopes;  
purple flower form – photo by André Paviotti Fontana

Special thanks to Alain Chautems for his technical assistance  
with this article and for obtaining the photographs.

midst of the dry season, even more pronounced than usual, we were able to find a few plants in two different localities. In one place, young leaves were just emerging from dormancy; in the other place, tiny tubers connected by very fine stolons were dug out of the ground. Robson told us he had one potted plant that he had kept since April, and luckily enough it had just produced a nice bloom. He proudly brought the plant to our small hotel that night. No more doubt remained. We could confirm that we had re-discovered the real wild origin of *Sinningia richii*. One leaf was taken for DNA analysis in Geneva. We later got the results – it totally matched the sequences obtained from *S. richii* plants that have been in cultivation for a long time. This means that *S. richii*, like all its congeners, belongs to a lineage of Brazilian origin and has never been an isolated endemic species from Mexico.

Last December Alain received an email with pictures from another Brazilian correspondent requesting identification of a *Sinningia* species that had been seen in southern Bahia, about 200 km north of Jaguaré. The flowers were light purple, and the first response that Alain gave was that it could be *S. speciosa*. A short time later, the correspondent replied saying that he knew *S. speciosa* well and his collections definitely had a different look. A thorough examination of pictures and herbarium data in Alain's records from the same area in southern Bahia again proved useful as similar material had been found and collected in the 1970/80's. The plants in southern Bahia have some typical *S. richii* characters, like the long erect trichomes on the pedicel and flowers as well as spreading open calyx lobes. With this new information, we realized that a third color variant occurs in the wild for this species. We could also clearly establish the respective distribution of *S. richii* in northern Espírito Santo and southern Bahia (north of the Rio Doce, a well established natural barrier for many plants or animals) and *S. speciosa* (south of the Rio



Robson Lopes with  
*Sinningia richii* (white)



*Sinningia richii* (yellow) growing  
as a ground cover in sandy soil

Doce) in central and southern Espírito Santo, southeastern Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro states.

The ecology of *Sinningia richii* is rather peculiar. It grows forming a flat rosette on the ground in sandy soil in some remnant patches of the forests known as "Floresta Alta ou Floresta Densa" which is part of the "Floresta de Tabuleiro" restricted to the north of the Espírito Santo state and southern Bahia state. Tubers remain small, rarely reaching more than a half inch in diameter. The plants must rely quite heavily on propagation by seeds as observed when we traveled to the area again in the beginning of December hoping to find some flowering material (but it was still too early in the season). The remaining forest fragments are highly threatened by agriculture as we could observe recent and intense extension of coffee plantations (irrigated on sandy soils!!!!), eucalyptus groves, and urban expansion. Restricted area of distribution and shrinking forested areas place the species in the category "endangered" following the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) criteria.

The only mystery that still remains is regarding the circumstances of the original locality confusion. One can only imagine that at some point labels were mixed up between two different collections. It only took some 50 years and a trip from Switzerland to Brazil to correct the error. The bonus to this story is that we met an enthusiastic plant collector and now have a new friend in Jaguaré!

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Paul Susi, Development Chairperson  
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The following donations were made to The Gesneriad Society during the period July through December 2008. Each donor's generosity is greatly appreciated.

## ELVIN McDONALD RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND – \$1677

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(All Life Membership dues are deposited in the Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund.)

YEAR-END APPEAL – \$2325

At the end of each year, a donation request letter is mailed to members of The Gesneriad Society. The following members made generous contributions to the Elvin McDonald Research Endowment Fund (\$1900) and the Nellie D. Sleeth Scholarship Endowment Fund (\$375) in response to the 2007 and 2008 Year-End Appeals:

JoAnna Behl  
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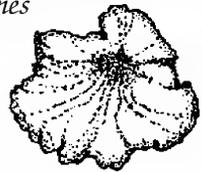
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# Coming Events

**April 25 – Massachusetts** – Annual combined plant societies' sale sponsored by the New England Gesneriad Society and the Buxton Branch of the Begonia Society at the Josiah Smith Barn, 358 Boston Post Road, Weston. Saturday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Contact Lilya Veneziano at 617-479-3680 or Wanda Macnair at <wmacnair@msn.com>.

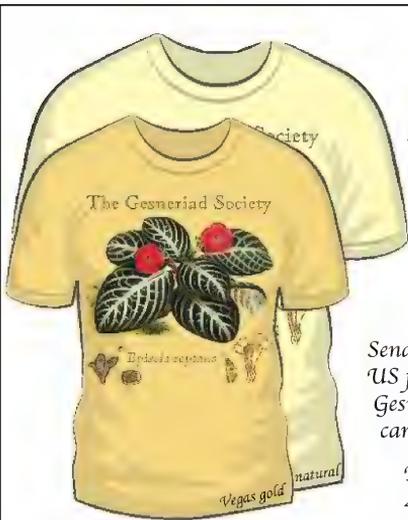
**April 25-26 – California** – San Mateo County African Violet Society annual show and plant sale at the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo. Saturday 2:00 – 5:00 pm; Sunday 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Contact Heather Morgan (605-346-7307).

**May 2 – British Columbia, Canada** – Vancouver African Violet and Gesneriad Society annual show and plant sale "A Galaxy of Gesneriads" in the Floral Hall at VanDusen Botanical Garden, West 41st Avenue & Oak Street, Vancouver. Saturday 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Admission \$2. Contact Bill Price <billprice@shaw.ca> or Arleen Dewell <arleendewell@shaw.ca>.

**May 2-3 – New York** – Long Island Gesneriad Society and the Saintpaulia Society of Long Island annual flower show and plant sale "Searching for Tom Hanks" at Planting Fields Arboretum, Planting Fields Road Conference Center, Oyster Bay. Saturday 1:00 – 4:00 pm; Sunday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Contact Ben Paternoster (631-549-6788).

**May 2-3 – New York** – The AV & Gesneriad Society of Western New York judged show and sale "Intoxicating Gesneriads" and "Intoxicating Violets" at the Walden Galleria Mall in Cheektowaga. Saturday 11:00 am – 9:00 pm; Sunday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. Contact Sheila Jones <shehar@msn.com>

**May 8-9 – Ohio** – Annual show and sale sponsored by the Parmatown African Violet Club at the Parmatown Mall, 7441 W. Ridgewood Dr., Parma. Friday sale 9:00 am – 9:00 pm; Friday show 12:30 – 9:00 pm; Saturday show 9:00 am – 6:00 pm; sale 9:00 am – 9:00 pm. Contact Pat Schrieber (404-884-1958).



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# GESNERIADS

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Compiled by Judy Becker

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# Accessions of *Saintpaulia* Known to be Available in North America

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Numbering system and *Saintpaulia* species identification follows Darbyshire (2006) as modified by the African Violet Society of America (*S. brevipilosa*, *S. nitida*, and *S. rupicola* have been kept as species rather than subspecies.) Updated list (as of July 18, 2008) courtesy of AVSA, Dr. Jeff Smith, Dr. James F. Smith, Dr. Bill Price, Dr. Barbara Pershing, and Joe Brun – these individuals gave much time and effort to the reclassifications.

## Saintpaulia Accessions

## Abbreviated Names

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <i>Saintpaulia inconspicua</i><br>(not in cultivation)                                     | <i>S. 1. inconspicua</i>   |
| 2. <i>Saintpaulia pusilla</i> (not in cultivation)  | <i>S. 2. pusilla</i>   |
| 3. <i>Saintpaulia shumensis</i><br><i>shumensis</i><br><i>shumensis</i> Mather EE             | <i>S. 3. cl. shumensis</i><br><i>S. 3. cl. shumensis</i> Mather EE             |
| 4. <i>Saintpaulia teitensis</i>   | <i>S. 4. teitensis</i>   |
| 5. <i>Saintpaulia ionantha</i>  |  |
| 5a. subspecies <i>grandifolia</i><br><i>grandifolia</i> No. 237<br><i>grandifolia</i> No. 299 | <i>S. 5a. cl. grandifolia</i> No. 237<br><i>S. 5a. cl. grandifolia</i> No. 299 |
| 5b. subspecies <i>grotei</i>  |  |
| <i>confusa</i>  | <i>S. 5b. cl. confusa</i>  |
| <i>confusa</i> Mather Brother Paddy   | <i>S. 5b. cl. confusa</i> Mather Brother Paddy                                 |
| <i>confusa</i> Mather E   | <i>S. 5b. cl. confusa</i> Mather E   |
| <i>confusa</i> Uppsala 3395   | <i>S. 5b. cl. confusa</i> Uppsala 3395   |
| <i>difficilis</i>   | <i>S. 5b. cl. difficilis</i>   |
| <i>difficilis</i> Mather No. 2  | <i>S. 5b. cl. difficilis</i> Mather No. 2                                      |
| <i>difficilis</i> Uppsala 3396  | <i>S. 5b. cl. difficilis</i> Uppsala 3396                                      |
| <i>grotei</i>   | <i>S. 5b. cl. grotei</i>   |
| <i>grotei</i> Amazon  | <i>S. 5b. cl. grotei</i> Amazon  |
| <i>grotei</i> Cornell G149  | <i>S. 5b. cl. grotei</i> Cornell G149  |
| <i>grotei</i> Mather No. 7  | <i>S. 5b. cl. grotei</i> Mather No. 7  |
| <i>grotei</i> Mather No. 21   | <i>S. 5b. cl. grotei</i> Mather No. 21   |
| <i>grotei</i> Mather V or van Someren<br>(previously <i>S. nitida</i> )                       | <i>S. 5b. cl. grotei</i> Mather V or van Someren                               |
| <i>grotei</i> Protzen or Uppsala 3091   | <i>S. 5b. cl. grotei</i> Protzen or Uppsala 3091                               |
| <i>grotei</i> Silvert   | <i>S. 5b. cl. grotei</i> Silvert   |
| <i>grotei</i> sport   | <i>S. 5b. cl. grotei</i> sport   |
| <i>magungensis</i>  | <i>S. 5b. cl. magungensis</i>  |
| <i>magungensis</i> var. <i>minima</i>   | <i>S. 5b. cl. magungensis</i> var. <i>minima</i>                               |
| 5c. subspecies <i>ionantha</i>  |  |
| 1. variety <i>ionantha</i>  |  |
| House of Amani  | <i>S. 5c1. cl. ionantha</i> House of Amani                                     |
| <i>ionantha</i>   | <i>S. 5c1. cl. ionantha</i>  |
| <i>ionantha</i> Amazon  | <i>S. 5c1. cl. ionantha</i> Amazon   |
| <i>ionantha</i> 930919  | <i>S. 5c1. cl. ionantha</i> 930919   |
| Sigi Falls  | <i>S. 5c1. cl. Sigi Falls</i>  |
| <i>tongwensis</i>   | <i>S. 5c1. cl. tongwensis</i>  |
| <i>tongwensis</i> Uppsala 3397  | <i>S. 5c1. cl. tongwensis</i> Uppsala 3397                                     |
| white <i>ionantha</i> or Mather No. 20  | <i>S. 5c1. cl. white ionantha</i> or Mather No. 20                             |

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2. variety <i>diplotricha</i><br><i>diplotricha</i> Parker<br><i>diplotricha</i> Punter No. 0<br><i>diplotricha</i> Punter No. 6<br><i>diplotricha</i> Punter No. 7<br><i>diplotricha</i> Uppsala 3084<br><i>diplotricha</i> Uppsala 3085 | <i>S.</i> 5c2. cl. <i>diplotricha</i> Parker<br><i>S.</i> 5c2. cl. <i>diplotricha</i> Punter No. 0<br><i>S.</i> 5c2. cl. <i>diplotricha</i> Punter No. 6<br><i>S.</i> 5c2. cl. <i>diplotricha</i> Punter No. 7<br><i>S.</i> 5c2. cl. <i>diplotricha</i> Uppsala 3084<br><i>S.</i> 5c2. cl. <i>diplotricha</i> Uppsala 3085          |
| 5d. subspecies <i>maifiensis</i><br>(not in cultivation)  | <i>S.</i> 5d. cl. <i>maifiensis</i>   |
| 5e. subspecies <i>occidentalis</i><br><i>magungensis</i> var. <i>occidentalis</i><br><i>magungensis</i> var. <i>occidentalis</i><br>Mather No. 12   | <i>S.</i> 5e. cl. <i>magungensis</i> var. <i>occidentalis</i><br><i>S.</i> 5e. cl. <i>magungensis</i> var. <i>occidentalis</i><br>Mather No. 12   |
| 5f. subspecies <i>orbicularis</i><br><i>orbicularis</i><br><i>orbicularis</i> var. <i>purpurea</i>  | <i>S.</i> 5f. cl. <i>orbicularis</i><br><i>S.</i> 5f. cl. <i>orbicularis</i> var. <i>purpurea</i>   |
| 5g. subspecies <i>pendula</i><br><i>intermedia</i><br><i>pendula</i><br><i>pendula</i> Cornell G304<br><i>pendula</i> Uppsala 3087<br><i>pendula</i> Uppsala 3089<br><i>pendula</i> Uppsala 3090<br><i>pendula</i> var. <i>kizarae</i>    | <i>S.</i> 5g. cl. <i>intermedia</i><br><i>S.</i> 5g. cl. <i>pendula</i><br><i>S.</i> 5g. cl. <i>pendula</i> Cornell G304<br><i>S.</i> 5g. cl. <i>pendula</i> Uppsala 3087<br><i>S.</i> 5g. cl. <i>pendula</i> Uppsala 3089<br><i>S.</i> 5g. cl. <i>pendula</i> Uppsala 3090<br><i>S.</i> 5g. cl. <i>pendula</i> var. <i>kizarae</i> |
| 5h. subspecies <i>velutina</i><br><i>velutina</i><br><i>velutina</i> Amazon<br><i>velutina</i> lite   | <i>S.</i> 5h. cl. <i>velutina</i><br><i>S.</i> 5h. cl. <i>velutina</i> Amazon<br><i>S.</i> 5h. cl. <i>velutina</i> lite   |
| 6. <i>Saintpaulia brevopilosa</i><br><i>brevopilosa</i><br><i>brevopilosa</i> Mather No. 10<br><i>brevopilosa</i> Grusell or Nguru Mnt.   | <i>S.</i> 6. <i>brevopilosa</i><br><i>S.</i> 6. <i>brevopilosa</i> cl. Mather No. 10<br><i>S.</i> 6. <i>brevopilosa</i> cl. Grusell or Nguru Mnt.   |
| 7. <i>Saintpaulia nitida</i>  | <i>S.</i> 7. <i>nitida</i>  |
| 8. <i>Saintpaulia rupicola</i><br><i>rupicola</i><br><i>rupicola</i> Mather No. 5<br><i>rupicola</i> pale or lite<br>Cha Simba or Chasimba<br>Kacharoroni or Robertson  | <i>S.</i> 8. <i>rupicola</i><br><i>S.</i> 8. <i>rupicola</i> cl. Mather No. 5<br><i>S.</i> 8. <i>rupicola</i> pale or lite<br><i>S.</i> 8. <i>rupicola</i> cl. Cha Simba or Chasimba<br><i>S.</i> 8. <i>rupicola</i> cl. Kacharoroni or Robertson   |
| 9. <i>Saintpaulia goetzeana</i>   | <i>S.</i> 9. <i>goetzeana</i>   |

Note: Establishing abbreviated names provides a consistent way to shorten the complete scientific names for everyday use. For example, you can more easily write on your label *S.* 5c2. cl. *diplotricha* Parker than *Saintpaulia ionantha*, subspecies *ionantha*, var. *diplotricha*, clone Parker. (The 5c2. code indicates that it is the species *ionantha*, subspecies *ionantha*, var. *diplotricha* so all that information does not need to be written out.)

Abbreviated names as they appear in this article have been used throughout this issue of GESNERIADS. The names are also available on our website <[www.gesneriadsociety.org](http://www.gesneriadsociety.org)>. Note that at publication time of this issue, however, The Gesneriad Society is considering alternate forms of abbreviated names — more information to follow.

# How to Grow African Violet Species

---

Linda Golubski <lgolubski@sbcglobal.net>  
Blue Springs, Missouri, USA

African violet species and their clones are hardier than their hybridized counterparts. Some are a little bit more finicky, but the majority of them will do well for you if you give them just the slightest bit of attention. Keep in mind that some of them are shy bloomers and others bloom in profusion. One of the simplest to grow is *Saintpaulia* 5b. cl. *confusa*. It is a trailer and blooms readily. Just keep the "dead stuff" off of the plant and throw a little fertilized water at it once in a while and it will respond with generous blooms.

One of the most difficult to grow and bloom is *Saintpaulia goetzeana*. Kenji Hirose of Japan has successfully accomplished this task. He grew the plant in a greenhouse that was very cold at night, down to 35°F (1.7°C). He said that he even watered the plants with cold water. This species also requires low light. Kenji shared a photo on the Internet recently of this gorgeous plant in full bloom. What an accomplishment!



*Saintpaulia goetzeana*  
grown and photographed by Kenji Hirose

African violet species would probably prefer to be grown in a window (north or east) exposure; but if you need to grow them in a light garden (like I do), use two tubes. Have your lights on for 8-10 hours per day and always keep a fan going for circulation. Of course, don't have such a large fan blowing that the plants are hanging onto the shelf for dear life. I've had one of those fans.

Always keep your soil light and airy. I use a soilless mix that consists of 3 gallons of Canadian peat moss, 2 gallons of perlite, 1 gallon of vermiculite,

1 cup horticultural-grade charcoal and 2 tablespoons of Malathion added to 1 gallon of very hot water. I mix everything together, then seal it all in a container for a week and let it "cook". The Malathion kills any critters that might be living in the peat moss. I usually make 30 gallons at a time and do not have the time or facilities to bake the soil. I want to state here that this soil recipe works for me in my growing conditions, but may not be right for you. When I pot up my species, I always use 1/2 to 1 inch of perlite in the bottom of each pot for drainage. I also wick water them. With my busy life style, if something can't be wicked or put in a community tray, I can't have it in my plant room. Dr. Jeff Smith says that he does not wick water any of his species with the exception of *Saintpaulia* 5a. cl. *grandifolia* No. 237. But he does admit that it "might" work. Dr. Smith also says that *S. 5a. cl. velutina* is the most unforgiving for over-watering. I do wick water it, but I also have a lot of perlite in the bottom of the pot for drainage.

I use only 1/8 of a teaspoon of fertilizer to 1 gallon of water to feed my species. I vary my fertilizer with every watering and I go by the following theory: I love spaghetti, but if I had to eat it every day I would get really sick of it. Also there are trace minerals in every fertilizer, so with variation the plants get different trace elements. What is most important to your African violet species is how you water them. Keep in mind that they grow on rocky cliffs and along stream beds on top of debris in the rain forests of Africa. They are more susceptible to "wet feet" than are our hybridized varieties. The soil needs to be moist, but not soggy, to a little dry. (Oops! The reservoir has gone dry.) Always remember to give your species proper drainage. The **#1 killer** of African violets is over watering.

Now a few "what ifs" . . .

If your leaves have black edges, then you are over watering.

If your leaves are crinkled, you're giving them too much light (except for *Saintpaulia* 5a. cl. *grandifolia* No. 299 which has crinkled leaves).

If your leaves are turgid and hugging the pot, then you are giving them too much light.

If you lack bloom (according to species), it could be lack of humidity, lack of fertilizer, not enough light, or lack of extreme temperature changes between day-time and night-time temperatures.

Some species rarely bloom and the former statement would not apply.

And finally, African violet species are our African violet heritage – please consider growing one. They are very rewarding!

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# Growing Species *Saintpaulia*

---

Bob Clark <thecopse@comcast.net>  
Seattle, Washington, USA

Growing species *Saintpaulia* for me is no different from growing the hybrid cultivars of *Saintpaulia*. I came to join The Gesneriad Society from the African Violet Society in order to become a better grower and judge. In the process, I have come to appreciate many different gesneriads but still have a great enjoyment in growing African violets.

I grow most of the clones of *Saintpaulia* species that are in cultivation with few exceptions. Most are grown on light stands as are the rest of the plants in my collection. I have grown in natural light as well and continue to (especially as light-stand space is at a premium). I have two light stands on the second floor of our home in a spare bedroom, and two stands on the third floor in the converted attic where my office is also located. The office location is the cooler of the two locations, having windows on the east and west as well as skylights that can open to let in fresh air in the warmer months. Lights are on 12 hours a day.



*Saintpaulia* 5a. cl. *grandifolia* #239 grown by Bob Clark  
(photo by Julie Mavity-Hudson)

My potting mix is a light mix of peat, vermiculite, and perlite prepared by my local Seattle African Violet Society. I find it easy to use and, if needed, I lighten it with a bit more perlite. I wick water my Saintpaulias and fertilize with every other filling of the reservoirs. In order to raise humidity in the area, I can pour water into the trays in which the reservoirs sit. I have had good success growing this way in Seattle. When I lived in New England, I grew in the basement, and no supplemental humidity was needed as the

plant stands were in the basement. Cooler-loving *Saintpaulia* species thrived there, but I did have problems with common *S. ionantha*, *S. rupicola* and *S. nitida*. Here in Seattle, the two growing locations make it ideal to grow each species according to its temperature likes. Most grow well in either climate, but *S. shumensis*, *S. teitensis* and the *S. velutina* clones have enjoyed the cooler temperatures of the third floor.

I have not yet grown the notoriously difficult *Sinningia goetzeana* in this climate. In Massachusetts, I had it and kept it for several months before it succumbed to a quick rotting disease. I intend to try growing it out on the front porch year-round and bring it in only when temperatures dip below 40°F. I really want to get this one again and keep it going! I was amazed at the pictures supplied by Kenji Hirose posted on the Internet mail group Gesneriphiles showing three plants of *S. goetzeana* in full bloom. Being a judge of *Saintpaulia* species, I can vouch that I have never seen such flowers on exhibit, ever. In fact, seeing such floriferousness in those pictures makes me realize that such goals are possible, and indeed reachable!

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# *Saintpaulia* 5c2. cl. *diplotricha* Parker

Arleen Dewell <arleendewell@shaw.ca>  
Vancouver, BC, Canada

One of my all-time favourite species African violets, this particular variant of *Saintpaulia* 5c2. cl. *diplotricha* has been in my collection for at least five years. It is a very nice smaller species that grows single-crowned and forms a lovely, reasonably flat rosette. The major differences between 'Parker' and the original *S. 5c2. cl. diplotricha* appear to be thinner leaves and more pliable stems without that characteristic tendency to spoon under and hug the pot. The flowers, two to four per peduncle, are held very high above the crown and are quite large in comparison to the size of the plant. Flowering is heavy and continuous under my conditions, and the colour I would describe as a very delicate, barely there shade of mauve. At its peak of perfection, 'Parker' is truly a magnificent creature and will always hold a place of honour in my gesneriad collection.

I grow *Saintpaulia* 5c2. cl. *diplotricha* Parker in the same basic potting mix that I use for all my gesneriads: two parts perlite to one part each of vermiculite and Bell's commercial seedling mix, with some charcoal and a small amount of dolomitic limestone thrown in. It will grow quite happily either in a central location under two tubes or at the edge of the shelf under four tubes. I have tried growing 'Parker' with and without a wick and have come to the conclusion that this plant is happier if the potting mix is allowed to dry out slightly. Continuously moist soil combined with my warm apartment environment can cause a nasty case of mildew, so un-wicked for 'Parker' works best for me. I fertilize all my species *Saintpaulia* plants including this clone with liquid, water-soluble fertilizer about twice a month. During the summer when the temperature inside the apartment has been known to climb over 90°F (32°C), I stop fertilizing altogether until it cools off and the plants, under less heat stress, are better able to utilize the food.



*Saintpaulia* 5c2. cl. *diplotricha* Parker  
grown by Arleen Dewell (photo by Julie Mavity-Hudson)



*Saintpaulia* 5c. cl. *tongwensis* Uppsala No. 3397  
grown by Bill Price (photo by Dale Martens)

## How I Grow *Saintpaulia* 5c. cl. *tongwensis* Uppsala No. 3397

---

Bill Price <billprice@shaw.ca>  
West Vancouver, BC, Canada

This plant was started from a leaf and took about eighteen months to grow to show size. It was potted in a small container of coarse vermiculite and placed under a dome on a two-tube fluorescent light shelf. After about three months, the small plantlets were large enough to divide and were planted in individual 2-1/2" pots and grown on.

I find this clone grows best at the ends of lighted shelves and is turned regularly to maintain symmetrical growth. The lights are on for 12 hours per day, all year round. Watering is done twice a week, once with plain water and once with a 1/4 strength of a variety of standard fertilizers such as 20-20-20, 15-30-15 and "fish". Temperatures range from 18-22°C (65-72°F) in the winter and 20-24°C (68-75°F) in the summer. My soil mix for growing Saintpaulias is a 1/3 mix by volume of regular peat moss, vermiculite and perlite with some dolomite lime and bone meal added.

This clone tends to grow quite symmetrically and single crowned as do others of *Saintpaulia* 5c. cl. *tongwensis*. And similarly, the flower stalks may have as many as 10-12 blossoms per peduncle. This clone, however, has very beautiful foliage, each leaf having a light yellow center rib.

When large enough, the young plants were transplanted into 4" pots and from that point on, were also disbudded. After several months, the plants were transplanted into 5" azalea pots which are the largest sized pots I use for this species. Disbudding was continued until about 9 weeks before the show date, after which time blossoms were allowed to develop. The plant was carried in a box on the plane to the AVSA convention in April, 2008 where it won Best in Show.

# Growing *Saintpaulia* 5h. cl. *velutina* lite and variegated S. 5b. cl. *grotei* Mather No. 21

---

Heinz Dornbusch <dornbusch@virginbroadband.com.au>  
New South Wales, Australia

There is nothing wrong in asking experts for advice regarding growing medium and cultural requirements to be steered in the right direction. Providing the right environment for a species or any plant cared for to thrive is the responsibility of the grower. Amazingly, if plants are not happy they do have ways to show discontent rather quickly.

I struggled with *Saintpaulia goetzeana* for a couple of years before I, not willingly but regrettably, killed it. When I received a leaf and a sucker of *Saintpaulia* 5h. cl. *velutina* lite, besides being mesmerized by the picture in the African Violet Magazine of Bill Price's plant, it was instant love ... and I was determined not to let either die. But how can one? Naturally, daily checking was mandatory, in fact every time I passed the stand. And not only that, every change during the day was painfully noted. Suffice it to say the sucker survived but was not happy. Occupying prime position in the stand on the upper shelf, the tiny sucker grew roots relatively easily; but the small leaves curled under and more and more suckers sprouted to the point where it became unmanageable and unappealing. The leaf was unhappy in a similar spot as well and took almost four months to actually strike. Something was clearly amiss.

The sucker was moved to the end of a lower shelf where conditions were cooler, the light less intense, and it eventually went right down to the bottom shelf. There it stretched out some, allowing for removal of unwanted suckers without too much damage, and I managed to shape it into a reasonable miniature plant. It responded gratefully!

The thumb pot with leaf was moved into natural light but not direct sun and covered with a dome to maintain humidity. Temperature changes are greater near the window, particularly in our winter period, and can fluctuate from 59° to 79°F (15° to 26°C). The leaf seemed to like that and finally I had a (one only) baby plant.

In an effort to maintain a more balanced pH, I no longer use peat moss or coir of any kind at all but rely solely on New Zealand sphagnum moss, at a pinch even Tasmanian sphagnum moss. I process the moss in a blender to chop it short and fluff it up, add perlite, diatomite (for a little weight), pulverized egg shell, a small amount of bone meal and some charcoal. This is left to age for 3 to 4 weeks before checking the pH, which usually creeps up to 6.5, and that's where I like it. The claim that perlite is pH neutral is, in my case, clearly incorrect.

All plants, including leaves in propagation, are wicked. The local water supply comes with a pH range from 7.4 to way above 8.0, and this doesn't change even when taken from the under-the-sink twin-filtration system and is therefore adjusted to be as close as possible to neutral after having added fertilizer. My preferred fertilizers, used at 1/8th strength, are micro-fine Poly Fertilal 8-14-18 plus micronutrients and African Violet Delight 12-12-18 plus micronutrients and trace elements.

Interestingly enough, the one plant propagated off the leaf turned out to be the better one in the end. It doesn't have the tendency to grow palm tree-like and, once established, it also stopped suckering. I repot miniatures every six or so weeks and believe this species prefers cooler conditions, not too much light either, but likes humidity. For me the blossom of *Saintpaulia* 5b. cl. *velutina* lite holds interest because it is a definite bi-color and quite dramatic. And while it is a continuous bloomer, I have yet to see more than three buds per peduncle. Furthermore, in my conditions the foliage is not an olive green but a rich, deep velvety green with the most amazing red/purple backing and a contrasting veined pattern. Intrigued with all these great attributes I couldn't resist dabbling with its pollen.

One other species in my care is a variegated *Saintpaulia* 5b. cl. *grotei* Mather No. 21. About 2 years ago I was given a cutting off this clone with what appeared to be crown variegation. It did well for me until hot summer conditions set in and it lost all variegation. I accepted that cultural conditions caused this aberration in the first place. Communication with Jeff Smith backed up this theory. Impatient and always short of space, I let the plant go. Full marks to Maree Bale though, who kept the original plant with variegation intact and even selfed it. This resulted in only one seedling showing the same markings. I was given a cutting of both and dare say my attitude toward taking care of these has changed to "it's not you babies, it's me". I will do my utmost to provide the necessary environment for this clone to flourish and, naturally, will mess around with its genetics in due course.



Variegated *Saintpaulia* 5b. cl. *grotei* Mather No. 21  
grown by Heinz Dornbusch (photo by Maree Bale)

Special thanks to Dale Martens for encouraging the writers and obtaining the photographs for all the *Saintpaulia* species articles.

## *Saintpaulia* 5h. cl. *velutina*

---

Fran Ratte <fbrate@hotmail.com>  
Lakewood, Colorado, USA

The flower of *Saintpaulia* 5h. cl. *velutina* is a single, medium violet with a darker eye. Some even have white tips on the blossoms. The blooms are bigger than other species with five per stalk. The black-green, velvety leaf is serrated and the leaves may be cupped either up or down.

The plant is not a fast grower. I use 15-30-15 or 12-36-14 fertilizer and constant feed at 1/4 tsp of fertilizer to one gallon of tepid water. I do not foliar feed the plants and try to repot up every three to four months. My potting soil is a light mixture of peat/perlite. Additionally, I place about an inch of perlite in the bottom of the new pot to aerate the soil more. All of my species plants are on trays with grids on the bottom shelf of my plant stands.

*Saintpaulia* 5h. cl. *velutina* likes the cooler temperatures. The fluorescent light tubes are about 10" above the plants. Since my basement plant room is painted white, I only have my lights on for ten hours a day in the summer months. They are on twelve hours during the other nine months. To help in the prevention of mildew, a small fan runs constantly in the plant area.

I usually have several pots of *Saintpaulia* 5h. cl. *velutina* growing, and fortunately for me, one of my plants was blooming for The Gesneriad Society Convention here in Denver in July 2008.



*Saintpaulia* 5h. cl. *velutina* grown by Fran Ratte  
(photo by Julie Mavity-Hudson)

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**"OZARK"** Sinningias, African Violets and other Gesneriads. Email: <plantman@ipa.net> (no catalog). Dave's Violets, 1372 S. Kentwood Avenue, Springfield, MO 65804 (417) 887-8904 <[www.davesviolets.com](http://www.davesviolets.com)>.

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# Gesneriad Register

Judy Becker <hybridregistrar@gesneriadsociety.org>  
Salisbury, Connecticut, USA

The following registrations should be added to the Registered Gesneriads List found in Appendix C of the 1990 Gesneriad Register.

071001	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Ronduls Jovita'	<i>S.</i> Dibley's 'Charlotte' × <i>S.</i> 'Franken Texas Sunrise'	Ron Clarke
071002	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Ronduls Jupiter'	<i>S.</i> Dibley's 'Charlotte' × <i>S.</i> 'Franken Texas Sunrise'	Ron Clarke
071003	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Ronduls Kacey'	<i>S.</i> 'Franken Dainty Lady' × <i>S.</i> 'Franken Borderline'	Ron Clarke
071004	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Ronduls Karianne'	<i>S.</i> 'Franken Dainty Lady' × <i>S.</i> 'Franken Borderline'	Ron Clarke
071005	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Ronduls Karoline'	<i>S.</i> 'Franken Dainty Lady' × <i>S.</i> 'Franken Borderline'	Ron Clarke
071006	<i>Streptocarpus</i> 'Ronduls Katia'	<i>S.</i> 'Franken Dainty Lady' × <i>S.</i> 'Franken Borderline'	Ron Clarke

***Streptocarpus* 'Ronduls Jovita'**, 2007, IR071001, Ron Clarke, UK. (*S.* Dibley's 'Charlotte' × *S.* 'Franken Texas Sunrise'). Cross made June 2004, planted Sept. 2004 and first flowered May 2005. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Large growing rosette. Leaves bullate, medium green, 36 cm long × 9 cm wide, linear with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx split, green, 1 cm long. 2 to 3 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 4 cm long × 6 cm wide, outside tube pale lilac to white, face lilac, top half of throat white, striped deep violet, bottom half of throat yellow extending onto bottom three lobes and filtering with 7 dark spotted stripes. Available from hybridizer and F. Davies.

***Streptocarpus* 'Ronduls Jupiter'**, 2007, IR071002, Ron Clarke, UK. (*S.* Dibley's 'Charlotte' × *S.* 'Franken Texas Sunrise'). Cross made June 2004, planted Sept. 2004 and first flowered May 2005. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Large growing rosette. Leaves bullate, medium green, 45 cm long × 12 cm wide, linear with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx split, green, 1 cm long. 1 to 3 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 4 cm long × 8 cm wide, outside tube ultramarine violet and white, face ultramarine violet, top half of throat white with 6 reddish purple stripes, bottom half of throat yellow with 7 reddish purple stripes extending onto bottom three lobes. Available from hybridizer or F. Davies.

***Streptocarpus* 'Ronduls Kacey'**, 2007, IR071003, Ron Clarke, UK. (*S.* 'Franken Dainty Lady' × *S.* 'Franken Borderline'). Cross made July 2004, planted Nov. 2004 and first flowered June 2005. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Rosette. Leaves bullate, medium green, 22 cm long × 10 cm wide, elliptic with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx green, split, 5 mm long. 3 to 8 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 3.5 cm long × 6.5 cm wide, outside of tube white, lightly spotted violet, face white spotted and netted violet, on bottom lobes spots merge to become more mottled towards the throat, throat white with yellow tinge, spotted lines emerge from throat. Available from hybridizer or F. Davies.



*Streptocarpus* 'Ronduls Jovita'



*Streptocarpus* 'Ronduls Kacey'

***Streptocarpus* 'Ronduls Karianne'**, 2007, IR071004, Ron Clarke, UK. (*S.* 'Franken Dainty Lady' × *S.* 'Franken Borderline'). Cross made July 2004, planted Nov. 2004 and first flowered July 2005. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Medium growing rosette. Leaves bullate, medium green, 22 cm long × 9 cm wide, linear with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx reddish brown, split, 6 mm long. 3 to 8 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 3 cm long × 5 cm wide, tube outside white, lightly spotted pale mauve, face white, covered in a mixture of light and slightly darker mauve spots, some merging to blotching, throat white with up to 9 darker mauve spotted stripes extending onto lobes. Available from hybridizer or F. Davies.

***Streptocarpus* 'Ronduls Karoline'**, 2007, IR071005, Ron Clarke, UK. (*S.* 'Franken Dainty Lady' × *S.* 'Franken Borderline'). Cross made July 2004, planted Nov. 2004 and first flowered June 2005. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Medium growing rosette. Leaves bullate, medium green, 18 cm long × 9 cm wide, linear with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx split, green, 3 mm long. 1 to 4 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 3.5 cm long × 5 cm wide, tube white outside, face white, spotted and veined in two tones of mauve, top lobes veined in broken spots of mauve, bottom lobes spotted mauve and shade to lighter spotting around edges, throat white with broken stripes of dark mauve extending onto bottom lobes with spots between stripes. Available from hybridizer or F. Davies.

***Streptocarpus* 'Ronduls Katia'**, 2007, IR071006, Ron Clarke, UK. (*S.* 'Franken Dainty Lady' × *S.* 'Franken Borderline'). Cross made July 2004, planted Nov. 2004 and first flowered June 2005. Fertile but reproducible only vegetatively. Medium growing rosette. Leaves bullate, medium green, 25 cm long × 12 cm wide, elliptic with crenate margin, acute tip and cuneate base. Calyx green, split, 7 mm long. 2 to 9 flowers per peduncle. Corolla salverform, 3 cm long × 5 cm wide, white tube, face white spotted and veined in two tones of mauve, bottom three lobes darker veined and more mottled than top lobes, throat white with mauve broken bars extending onto bottom lobes. Available from hybridizer or F. Davies

# Adventures in Sweden

---

Bob Clark <thecopse@comcast.net>  
Seattle, Washington, USA

With the family name of Clark, I have no known lineage in the Scandinavian countries, but was raised going to a Scandinavian church in Connecticut. I often heard members talk of the "old country", referring to Norway, Sweden or Denmark. From their descriptions, I always had longed to go visit and see the beautiful land of midnight sun. I was presented the opportunity to capture this goal one day during the 2007 Convention held in Miami. Ingrid Lindskog from Sweden was attending the convention and casually mentioned their chapter was having a show in 2008 and she was looking for international judges. I jumped at the opportunity! (Thank you again, Ingrid!) To try to entice me further, Ingrid mentioned the possibility of touring the botanical gardens of Uppsala, now famous for their collection of *Saintpaulia* species. (As if I needed further enticement....)

As the day for departure approached, details settled in place and I was off to the airport. I had a direct flight to London and then transferred planes to fly to Stockholm. Upon arriving at Arlanda Airport, I proceeded through customs easily and was greeted by Sven Lindskog, Ingrid's husband, and Bill Price who had arrived several minutes before me. I was glad to have the company, since I don't speak Swedish. Sven was a perfect host and tour guide, and his English was very good. We were booked in a modern, clean hotel with a large central building housing the reception area, eatery, kitchen and function rooms. Located in small outbuildings around the circumference of the central building, the rooms were small and clean, and after a long flight, quite restful.

On our first full day, the group assembled for breakfast and then traveled by train into the city of Stockholm. We broke up into two groups: a shopping group of Dale Martens and Judy Kroll, and a touring group with Paul Kroll, Bill Price, Gussie Farrice, Carolyn Ripps, Vladimir Kalgin, and myself, led



Touring group of judges in Stockholm (left to right): Paul Kroll, Bill Price, Bob Clark, Gussie Farrice, Vladimir Kalgin, Carolyn Ripps (photo by Sven Lindskog)

by Sven Lindskog. Our group had a fantastic stroll through the city of historical buildings, restaurants, shops, boats and museums. I was most impressed with the Vasa Museum, a very modern building containing the salvaged 1628 warship Vasa that sank in Stockholm harbor on her maiden voyage. The reconstructed vessel is 95% original, and is adorned with hundreds of carved sculptures. The sheer size of the exhibit is staggering, especially when one realized that the museum could only contain the lower *half* of the masts. No wonder the ship capsized! Stockholm was a delight to visit, and I would love to return someday to take a more in-depth tour of this lovely city surrounded by water.

The group also visited all things Linnaeus, a professor of medicine and botany who developed the current binomial classification system used in the scientific world. Our very educational tour included his home and the Linnaeus botanical gardens in the city of Uppsala as well as his summer home and gardens in the countryside. The gardens were set up in the Baroque style and recreated largely as they had been in Linnaeus' 1745.



Gesneriad Flower Show in the Orangerie at the Uppsala Botanical Gardens  
(photo by Bob Clark)

The next day it was time for the judges to do the job for which we were invited – judging of the show for the Gesneriasts of Sweden. The show was held in the Orangerie at the Uppsala Botanical Garden which is a beautiful place for plants, gardens, and the occasional wedding. We were told to mill about as the finishing touches were done for the show, a joint project of the Gesneriasts of Sweden and the local Swedish Saintpaulia Society. This AV club is accustomed to merit judging but allowed the different-style competitive judging for the combined show. The entries were quite diverse and well staged. Most interesting was the very large class of new hybrids where 22 new Kohlerias were entered. It was certainly an amazing and very difficult class to judge. Best in Show was determined to be a nearly perfect specimen of *Saintpaulia* 5b. subspecies *grotei* on display from the Uppsala Botanical Garden collection of *Saintpaulia* species.

When we finished judging we were led on a tour of the Uppsala Botanical Gardens. (Finally, I thought, we can see this famous collection!) I was not disappointed. Entering the tropical house was very similar to other "in situ" displays with walkways of tropical and subtropical plantings. However, tucked into the plantings we did see gesneriads such as *Gloxinia perennis* in bloom, the lovely golden spikes of *Titanotrichum oldhamii*, as



*Saintpaulia grotei* (S. 5b. subspecies *grotei*)  
grown at the Uppsala Botanical Gardens  
was awarded Best in Show

well as several *Saintpaulia* species hidden in the shade of taller trees. It was a very well laid out rain-forest setting.

Adjacent was a room with display gardens, and this is where we saw the extensive gesneriad collection. There were MANY gesneriads in this planting; many more than I have ever seen elsewhere. The most commonly grown genera were on display as well as several rarely seen plants. Groupings of *Petrocosmea*, *Sinningia*, *Episcia*, *Gloxinia*, and *Streptocarpus* were evident, as well as specimens of *Seemania*, *Rhytidophyllum*, *Achimenes*, *Niphaea*, *Eucondonia*, *Paliavana*, *Paradrymonia*, *Chirita*, *Aeschynanthus*, *Nematanthus* and *Codonanthe*. The display was breathtaking.



Gunilla Svensson with some of her new hybrid *Kohlerias* at the show



Bill Price with *Paliavana tenuiflora* at Uppsala Botanical Gardens

(Photos courtesy of Dale Martens)

At the far end of the house was the *Saintpaulia* collection exhibited in a glass display case. The curator for the collection, fellow member Åsa Tysk, unlocked and opened the case so that we could get a close look at the exhibit and take photographs. There were approximately 70 plants in this collection of different species and clones. All were in good condition and most were in flower. After locking the case up, Åsa took us to the propagation house to see more of the *Saintpaulia* collection. If we weren't impressed before, we were now! Bench upon bench of species *Saintpaulia* plants, grown in clay pots half buried in sand, greeted us. Most of these plants were also in flower. We could barely contain Bill Price (he was like a cat rolling in catnip), and Paul Kroll was hyperventilating!

Later we were well fed at the awards dinner, and special care was made to have the awards presentation given in both Swedish and English for our benefit. Thank you, Lena!

All in all it was a lovely trip, and I look forward to returning sometime in the future, not only to visit the land of midnight sun, but also the new friends made. *Tusen tack!* (A thousand thanks!)



Part of the *Saintpaulia* species collection at Uppsala Botanical Gardens  
(photo by Carolyn Ripps)

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# Seed Fund Chairpersons Travel to Sweden

Carolyn Ripps <rippses@aol.com>  
Hartsdale, New York, USA

Last year the Seed Fund Chairpersons were invited to Uppsala to judge a flower show organized by the Gesneriasts of Sweden and the Swedish Saintpaulia Society (show to be held in September 2008). The Gesneriasts of Sweden is the largest chapter of The Gesneriad Society and has hundreds of enthusiastic members and growers. Gussie Farrice and I decided to take advantage of the opportunity to do some additional sightseeing in Scandinavia and began our trip in Copenhagen – five other Gesneriad Society judges were to join us the next week in Sweden.

We spent an enjoyable few days as tourists in Copenhagen and then headed for Gothenburg, Sweden. Our hotel there was located near a large park with a famous Palm House. The greenhouse had only a few gesneriads (*Streptocarpus* and *Saintpaulia* species), but did have a number of interesting outdoor display gardens designed by landscape students and professionals.

We took a tram to the famous Gothenburg Botanical Garden, the major reason for our visit there. The greenhouses were spectacular with exhibits showing plants in many different environments. In the Begonia House we found over 45 different gesneriads, many in flower, and probably missed even more. One exciting discovery was a Chinese species that we had never seen before – *Ancylostemon mairei* sharing a hillside display with the *Petrocosmeas*.



*Ancylostemon mairei* growing at the Gothenburg Botanical Garden  
(photo by Carolyn Ripps)

The next day we boarded a high-speed express train for Stockholm and then a local train to Märsta where we were met by Ingrid Lindskog and escorted to the hotel that would be our base for the rest of the visit. One by one the other judges arrived.

The day of the flower show at the Orangerie in the Uppsala Botanical Garden, the invited judges were joined by Swedish members who served as additional judges and clerks. The growers exhibited a wide range of lovely plants and photographs, and the judging was difficult and spirited. A number of beautiful new *Kohleria* hybrids were shown, some of which we hope to see here in the US in the near future. We were also taken on a tour of the greenhouses which had numerous gesneriads including a fabulous collection of *Saintpaulia* species and clones.

On our last full day in Sweden we had the pleasure of visiting several historic sites associated with Linnaeus, including gardens he designed and his summer house in the suburbs. We arrived at the airport early the next day for the long flight home, tired but with priceless memories of historic buildings, beautiful plants, and the warm hospitality of our Swedish friends.



Members of the Swedish flower show team (left to right): Maike Lundberg, Lena Bjurling, Ingrid Lindskog, Ewa Andersson, Helen Söderberg

### Additions to Species Seed Fund List 1Q09:

- *Achimenes candida* (B,D)
- *Achimenes longiflora alba* (B,D)
- *Achimenes mexicana* (B,D)
- *Aeschynanthus hartleyi* (B)
- *Chirita eburnea* (blue) (F,R)
- *Monophyllaea horsfieldii* (U)
- *Neomortonia rosea* (P,H)
- *Sinningia cardinalis* peloric mix
- *Sinningia concinna*
- *Streptocarpus galpinii*
- *Streptocarpus nobilis*

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Carolyn Ripps, 21 Sprain Road, Hartsdale, NY 10530

### Deletions from Species list:

*Codonanthesis dissimulata*  
*Columnnea nicaraguensis* CR92F16

*Columnnea nicaraguensis* GRF94105  
*Streptocarpus rexii* (F,L,R)

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**Karyn Cichocki**  
**79 Beaver Run Road**  
**Lafayette, NJ 07848**

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**Marilyn Allen**  
**8 Brackenridge Place**  
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**Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)**  
**The Gesneriad Society, Inc.**

Year Ended December 31, 2008

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
Checking	\$23,239	\$8,041	\$8,358
In Savings	1,534	2,289	3,646
Endowment CDs:			
Crisafulli Family Award	2,005	2,033	2,084
Frelinghuysen Arboretum Chapter Award	2,053	2,074	2,096
Benjamin R. Franklin Bequest	10,077	10,546	807
<b>Year-End Balance</b>	<b>\$38,909</b>	<b>\$24,983</b>	<b>\$16,991</b>
<b>CONVENTION SPEAKERS FUND</b> (established 2008 from B. R. Franklin Bequest)			
CD at Key Bank			\$5,115
<b>Year-End Balance</b>			<b>\$5,115</b>
<b>ELVIN McDONALD RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND</b>			
CDs at Key Bank	\$14,446	\$15,103	\$20,881
CD at Wa Fed Svgs Bank	2,661	2,748	2,837
In Checking*			475
In Savings	12,188	22,219	26,767
<b>Year-End Balance</b>	<b>\$29,295</b>	<b>\$40,070</b>	<b>\$50,960</b>
<b>FRANCES BATCHELLER ENDOWMENT FUND</b>			
In Savings	\$9,962	\$10,994	\$6,334
In Checking*			25
CD (closed, funds now at Schwab)	21,512	-0-	-0-
CD at Key	49,703	-0-	-0-
CD at US Bank	63,682	67,054	70,606
CDs at Wa Fed Svgs Bank	78,337	81,818	85,453
Fidelity Mutual Funds	60,115	63,761	46,035
Schwab One Account (New for 2007)		73,091	74,945
<b>Year-End Balance</b>	<b>\$283,311</b>	<b>\$296,718</b>	<b>\$283,398</b>
<b>GESNERIAD REGISTER FUND</b>			
CD at Wa Fed Svgs Bank	\$9,925	\$10,421	\$10,943
In Checking*			29
In Savings	6,256	6,414	4,857
<b>Year-End Balance</b>	<b>\$16,181</b>	<b>\$16,835</b>	<b>\$15,829</b>
<b>NELLIE D. SLEETH SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND</b>			
In Savings	\$125	\$331	\$757
In Checking*			25
CD Wa Fed Svgs Bank	102,326	102,381	102,450
<b>Year-End Balance</b>	<b>\$102,451</b>	<b>\$102,712</b>	<b>\$103,232</b>
<b>SELBY PROJECT FUND</b> (established 2008)			
In Checking*			\$50
<b>Year-End Balance</b>			<b>\$50</b>
<b>The Society has no Liabilities</b>			
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$470,147</b>	<b>\$481,318</b>	<b>\$475,575</b>

3 Year-End Open Items (uncleared checks) \$508.32

\*Fund amounts in checking were moved to interest-bearing savings just after year-end

**Statement of Activities (Income Statement)**  
**The Gesneriad Society, Inc.**

January 1, 2008 thru December 31, 2008

**GENERAL FUND**

**REVENUES:**

Ads in Journal	\$403
Color Photo Sponsorships	2,381
Convention Receipts	46,284
Judging Publications/Appraisal	857
Membership	28,042
Promotions Sales	2,331
Publication Sales	4,997
Seed Fund Sales	5,722
Other Revenues	<u>2,741</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$93,758</b>

**EXPENSES:**

Publication of GESNERIADS	\$38,175
Membership Processing	1,397
Publication Expenses	2,685
Chair Expenses	1,453
Stipends	2,400
Insurance Expenses	4,344
Convention Expenses	41,582
Promo Expenses	1,903
Credit Card Processing	2,564
Other Expenses	<u>2,277</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(\$98,780)</b>
Transfer from FBEF for Expenses	\$5,000
Transfer from Register Fund for new Achimenes Register	\$2,030
Allocation of Franklin Bequest to EMREF and Speaker Funds	<u>(\$10,000)</u>
<b>Increase(Decrease) in General Fund</b>	<b>(\$7,992)</b>

**CONVENTION SPEAKERS FUND**

**REVENUES:**

Establishment funding from B.R. Franklin Bequest	\$5,000
Interest from CDs and Savings	115
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$5,115</b>

Fund had no expenses this year  
**Increase(Decrease) in Fund \$5,115**

**ELVIN McDONALD RESEARCH  
 ENDOWMENT FUND**

**REVENUES:**

Interest from CDs and Savings	\$1,138
2008 Convention Auction Proceeds	5,819
Transfer from Franklin Bequest	5,000
Donations	<u>5,933</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$17,890</b>

**EXPENSES:**

Grants Awarded:

Gesneriad Project/Selby	(\$2,500)
John L. Clark	<u>(\$4,500)</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(\$7,000)</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease) in Fund</b>	<b>\$10,890</b>

**FRANCES BATCHELLER  
 ENDOWMENT FUND**

**REVENUES:**

Life Memberships	\$2,625
Donations	171
Interest from CDs and Savings	7,257
Changes in Value:	
Fidelity Mutual Funds	(17,726)
Schwab One Account	<u>1,854</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>(\$5,819)</b>

**EXPENSES:**

Transfer to General Fund for 2008 Expenses	(\$5,000)
Grant Awarded:	
Selby Botanical Garden	<u>(\$2,500)</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(\$7,500)</b>
<b>Increase(Decrease) in Fund</b>	<b>(\$13,319)</b>

**GESNERIAD REGISTER FUND**

**REVENUES:**

Sales of Registers	\$446
Interest from CDs and Savings	<u>577</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,023</b>

**EXPENSES:**

New Achimenes Register	(\$2,030)
<b>Increase(Decrease) in Fund</b>	<b>(\$1,007)</b>

**NELLIE D. SLEETH SCHOLARSHIP  
 ENDOWMENT FUND**

**REVENUES:**

Donations	\$396
Interest from CDs and Savings	<u>4,623</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$5,019</b>

**EXPENSES:**

Grant Awarded: Marcela Mora	(\$4,500)
<b>Increase(Decrease) in Fund</b>	<b>\$519</b>

**SELBY PROJECT FUND**

**REVENUES:**

Donations	<u>\$2,550</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$2,550</b>

**EXPENSES:**

Grant to Gesneriad Project/Selby	(\$2,500)
<b>Increase(Decrease) in Fund</b>	<b>\$50</b>

*Respectfully submitted,  
 Rebecca Fontes, Treasurer*

## CHAPTERS AND AFFILIATES — Presidents or Contacts

- Arizona **Desert Sun AV and Gesneriad Society** — Ann Stotzer, 8327 W. Claremont St., Glendale, AZ 85305  
**Southern Arizona Gesneriad Society** — Deb Weinman, 4587 N. Avenida del Cazador, Tucson, AZ 84718
- Arkansas **Northwest Arkansas Gloxinia & Gesneriad Society** — Annie Osterhout, 708 Rustic Dr., Rogers, AR 72756
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**Delta Gesneriad & AV Society** — Barbara Elkin, 2855 Gayle Ln., Auburn, CA 95602  
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**Peninsula** — JoAnna Behl, 361 Tioga Ct., Palo Alto, CA 94306  
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- Colorado **Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers** — Allison Brigham, 1122 8th St., Golden, CO 80401
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**Caribbean Basin AV & Gesneriad Society** — Allan L. Mink, 430 E. Dayton Circle, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312  
**Suncoast** — Melissa McDowell, 1502 Eastbrook Dr., Sarasota, FL 34231  
**Tampa Bay** — Jo Anne Martinez, 809 Taray de Avila, Tampa, FL 33613
- Georgia **Atlanta Gesneriad Interest Group (Affiliate)** — William Crews, 5862 Musket Lane, Stone Mountain, GA 30087
- Illinois **Northern Illinois** — Janice Poole, 487 Kelly Ave., Yorkville, IL 60560
- Kansas/Missouri **Heart of America** — Marian Schaaf, 19000 East 19th Terrace Court North, Independence, MO 64058
- Massachusetts **New England** — Wanda Macnair, 59 Walker St., Cambridge, MA 02138
- Michigan **Southeastern Michigan** — Richard Holzman, 3836 Jennings, Troy, MI 48083
- Minnesota **Twin Cities Area** — Mike Bagstad, 1776 Fry St., Falcon Heights, MN 55113
- Missouri **Gateway West** — Gary Dunlap, 4189 Jarvis Road, Hillsboro, MO 63050
- Nebraska/Iowa **Omaha** — Tom Bruning, 31233 Beechnut Rd., Treynor, IA 51575
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- New Jersey **Frelinghuysen Arboretum** — Mary Lou Robbins, 21 Overlook Rd., Boonton Township, NJ 07005
- New York **AV and Gesneriad Society of Western New York** — Paul Kroll, 4325 Two Rod Rd., East Aurora, NY 14052  
**Gesneriad-Dicts of Western New York** — Doug Burdick, 2366 Doran Rd., Lima, NY 14485  
**Greater New York** — Gary Vellenzer, 49 E. 12th St., Apt. 6B, New York, NY 10003  
**Long Island** — Kay Rotando, 131 Taft Ave., Long Beach, NY 11561  
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**Vancouver AV & Gesneriad Society** — Arleen Dewell, #311-2366 Wall St., Vancouver, BC, V5L 4Y1 Canada
- Sweden **Gesneriasts of Sweden** — Rakel Dittmer, Henricksbergv.88, 136 67 Haninge, Sweden

**Go to [www.gesneriadsociety.org](http://www.gesneriadsociety.org) for chapter email contacts.**

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**Bylaws:** Copies of The Gesneriad Society Bylaws are available to all members by writing to Allison Brigham, 1122 8th Street, Golden, CO 80401 USA.

**Chapters:** Report changes of chapter presidents to the Chapters and Affiliates Chair and the Editor.



## *Saintpaulia ionantha* clones



*Saintpaulia* 5f. cl. *orbicularis* (grown at Uppsala Botanic Garden in Sweden; photo by Dale Martens)



*Saintpaulia* 5e. cl. *magungensis* var. *occidentalis* (grown and photographed by Toshijiro Okuto)



*Saintpaulia* 5g. cl. *pendula* var. *kizarae* (grown and photographed by Toshijiro Okuto)



*Saintpaulia* 5b. cl. *confusa* (grown and photographed by Toshijiro Okuto)



*Saintpaulia* 5b. cl. *difficilis* (photo by Michael Möeller; courtesy of Jeff Smith)



*Saintpaulia* 5g. cl. *intermedia* (grown at Uppsala Botanic Garden in Sweden; photo by Dale Martens)